

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

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31 Jul 75

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Dear [redacted]

In response to your telephone call and letter of 29 July, I agree that our Government should pay due attention to the plight of Vietnamese as yet inadmissible to the refugee pipeline. Right now, however, there is nothing my Agency can properly do for [redacted]. As you know, the criteria set by Congress and interpreted by the Department of State and INS are sharply defined, and as of this writing [redacted] does not meet those criteria. Although at one time he was our compound manager in [redacted] we were forced to let him go in November 1972, and he was not an employee of the U.S. Government at the time of the evacuation.

On the brighter side, there are signs that the Government has begun to widen the above criteria, initially to admit Vietnamese diplomats stranded abroad, and I am confident that before long the self-evacuated category will be brought into the refugee mainstream. As yet there is absolutely no indication that any third country, such as Malaysia, is seriously thinking of forcing refugees to return to South Vietnam against their will.

Time and bureaucratic process, slow though they may be, are on the side of refugees such as [redacted]. I do not believe that any intervention can hasten the process, and at this point feel little would be gained even if you were willing to contact a voluntary organization and formally sponsor [redacted]. Also, such efforts to intercede for an individual, if successful, would tend to relieve the pressure for an overall solution to this problem. The latter is far more desirable on humanitarian grounds.

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STAT While examining [ ] case, I learned that of the three individuals named in his letter, one is no longer with us and the other two are unable, for personal reasons, to sponsor [ ] should he reach the United States.

STAT As for the two former [ ] officials with [ ] there are no grounds for this Agency, justifiably, to intervene. Again, this is a matter best left to State, INS, and the Congress so that a comprehensive solution can be reached for all deserving refugees.

In conclusion, I appreciate your humanitarian interest and hope that as a private citizen you will continue to bring this particular problem to the attention of the responsible elements of our Government.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

W. E. Colby  
Director

STAT ORIG: [ ] (5 August 1975)

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